

"With the current struggle in defense of democracy, it becomes increasingly important that we in America adopt wiser attitudes in our treatment of Negroes and other minority groups. The Fund is planning an expanded program in race relations under a special division set up for that purpose."

J. A. K.

SELECTIVE SERVICE IN PEACETIME: First Report of the Director of Selective Service, 1940-41; Government Printing Office, Washington: 1942.

A very comprehensive report to the President by Lewis B. Hershey, Director. The titles are too numerous to repeat; however the volume is of much interest to anyone who wants to know more about the workings of the Selective Service. The photographs, tables, and facsimiles of important documents illumine the publication. The total registration under Selective Service as of September 30, 1941, was 17,370,355. 1,842,364 or 10.6 per cent of these were Negroes.

National headquarters has record of 1,717 Negroes serving in the administration of the Selective Service System. A photograph is presented of a local board all of whose members are Negroes consisting of one minister, two college professors, lawyer, and a business man.

Attention is called to two specific provisions against discrimination because of race or color. One is "that within the limits of the quota determined under section 4 (b) for the subdivision in which he resides, any person, regardless of race or color, between the ages of 18 and 36, shall be afforded an opportunity to volunteer for induction into the land or naval forces of the United States for the training and service prescribed." The second is "that in the selection and training of men under this act, and in the interpretation and execution of the provisions of this act, there shall be no discrimination against any person on account of race or color."

The report calls attention to the large number of Negro volunteers; 38,538 as of September 30, 1941, which number represented 16.1 per cent of the total number of volunteers entering the army through the System. "An even larger percentage, 25.3 per cent, of the volunteers awaiting induction at that time were Negroes."

The director has this to say of the loyalty of the Negro: "there are at least two important reasons for this fact. Negroes have been notably a loyal and patriotic group. One of their outstanding characteristics is the single-mindedness of their patriotism." . . . "they have built in America a fine record of loyalty and willingness to support and defend their native land. One state with a large Negro population, over a period of several months, filled every call made upon it for Negro selectees by volunteers."

J. A. K.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHIATRY: by Edward A. Strecker, M.D., Sc.D., F. A. C. P., Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department, Undergraduate School of

Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Psychiatrist to the Pennsylvania Hospital; Attending Psychiatrist, Psychopathic Division, Philadelphia General Hospital. 15 illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, London, Montreal. Price \$3.00.

In his Preface the author calls attention to the fact that "the so-called 'chronic' segment of the psychoses is no longer chronic." Modern conditions, particularly the world war with its train of human wrecks which have followed World War I and will follow World War II, have made and will make the condition very acute. Not only from the standpoint of the fighting men is this true, but the new method of warfare in which unoffending citizens are targets of the enemy's blasts in the same manner as the soldiers in the field make the condition practically universal. The subject matter is presented in nine chapters totalling 187 pages: Chapter I discusses the importance and the opportunities of psychiatry; Chapter II, etiology; Chapter III, classification of mental diseases; Chapter IV, methods of examination and symptoms; Chapter V, organic psychoses; Chapter VI, toxic psychoses; Chapter VII, functional psychoses and psychoneuroses; Chapter VIII, defect reaction types, and Chapter IX, the psychiatry of the war. Under each of these titles are numerous sub-titles.

J. A. K.

EARLY SKIN GRAFTING IN WAR WOUNDS OF THE EXTREMITIES. By John Marquis Converse, M.D., Ann. Surg., 115: 321-335, March 1942. Clinical Abstracts, Vol. IV, No. 18 (162).

War wounds with extensive skin loss are often followed by contractions, constrictions, and deformities of the extremities, necessitating secondary reconstructive surgery. In wounds remaining unepithelized longer than from three to five weeks, fibrous tissue changes occur which diminish local blood supply and open the way to secondary infection.

Skin grafting of infected granulating wounds, following secondary debridement and local use of sulfanilamide powder has given success in percentage of skin graft "takes," estimated at 88 per cent in 56 cases. In wounds of compound fractures, skin grafting has been undertaken successfully during the routine change of the closed plaster following secondary debridement and local use of sulfanilamide powder. War wounds presenting skin losses should be skin-grafted immediately by a primary "skin dressing." This procedure avoids complications and greatly reduces the healing period of the wound.

When immediate skin grafting is not possible or, when it is impossible to determine exactly the extent of the tissue destruction, as in deep burns, immobilization in plaster for ten days to two weeks allows the devitalized tissue to delimit itself in a slough, which is then resected and skin-grafted.—(Summary and Conclusions).

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